

### Capsule Summary

Building 99 (also commonly referred to as the Plumb Point Water Tower) is located in the Aberdeen Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Maryland. It lies just north of Building 310, the old Post Headquarters, near the intersection of Plumb Point and East Plumb Point Roads, and southeast of the Plumb Point Golf Course. This structure is a contributing element to the Plumb Point Historic District, which is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (MIHP# HA-1854). The predominant surrounding land use consists of a golf course, woods, and housing.

The Building 99 water tower was used to store water for the residents of Plumb Point community housing from its construction until the mid-1980s, when it was drained and permanently removed from service. The structure is an elevated potable water storage tank that is 109' 6" in height and 28' in diameter with a capacity of 150,000 gallons. It is constructed entirely of Pittsburgh-Des Moines steel except for the concrete foundation pads supporting the four angled pylons with supporting lattice-work along each pylon's length. These pylons are attached to the underbody of the water tank directly underneath the uncovered observation balcony, with railing, which runs around the lower third of the water tank. These pylons provide lateral stability to a central vertical cylindrical post that directly supports the tank body. The tank has a spherical bottom and slightly rounded roof. All connections were gusseted and fastened with hot rivets. Additional lateral stability is provided by eight horizontal sway braces evenly spaced up the height of the tower. These sway braces are attached to the vertical pylons through riveted gussets and connection bolts. Twenty-four smaller diagonal sway braces connect the panel points of the vertical and horizontal elements. Access to the top of the tank is provided by two separate ladders. The longest ladder begins at one of the concrete foundation pads and continues up the length of a vertical pylon to the aforementioned uncovered observation balcony. The tank top ladder added in 1983 begins at the bottom of this balcony, continues along the side of the water tank to the rounded roof, and allows maintenance access by means of a ladder rail extension near the inspection hatch. Both ladders are fastened to the water tower with connection bolts and welding when required. Other updates to the tower were made over the years, including repainting in 1955 and the addition of safety devices in 1979. Currently, the tower is heavily rusted and includes lead-based paint, which is continuing to flake off in many areas. It continues to deteriorate.

Capsule Summary  
Building 99 Water Tower  
Plumb Point Historic District (HA-1854)  
Page 2 of 2

The boundary of the Plumb Point Historic District outlines the original residential district within APG, as it was planned and constructed during the period of 1919 to 1942. Most of the buildings included in the district illustrate the two phases of construction in this area; the first in 1919 and the second between 1934 and 1935. The first phase consisted of 14 units of officer housing built on the northern tip of Plumb Point. The second phase included the construction of an additional 74 buildings and structures, and was the result of a program implemented by the Quartermasters Corps, which called for the construction of permanent housing, hospitals, and support facilities using standardized plans. Also included in this second phase was the implementation of a comprehensive physical plan. The Plumb Point district forms a cohesive representative example of Army planning and permanent construction, which occurred between World War I and World War II. The Building 99 water tower was one of the seven non-residential buildings/structures erected during the second phase of construction in May 1934. As per this Plumb Point Historic District NRHP registration form, the applicable NR criterion is Criterion C.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of

### Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HA-2192  
~~HA-1854~~

#### 1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Building 99 (preferred) [contributing element of Plumb Point Historic District (HA-1854)]  
other Water Storage Tank Potable, Plumb Point Water Tower

#### 2. Location

street and number east of intersection of Plumb Point and E. Plumb Point Roads (SE of Golf Course) ☒ not for publication  
city, town Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen Area ☒ vicinity  
county Harford

#### 3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground  
street and number 4304 Susquehanna Avenue telephone 410-436-4569  
city, town Aberdeen Proving Ground state MD zip code 21005

#### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse, Land Records liber folio  
city, town Bel Air tax map tax parcel tax ID number

#### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☒ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☒ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>1</u> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

## 7. Description

Inventory No. ~~HA-1854~~ <sup>HA-2192</sup>

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

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## 8. Significance

Inventory No. ~~HA-1854~~ <sup>HA-2192</sup>

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

<b>Specific dates</b>	1919-1942	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Quartermaster Corps
<b>Construction dates</b>	1934		

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register      ☒ Maryland Register      ☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

This structure is a contributing element to the Plumb Point Historic District, which is eligible for listing on the NRHP (MIHP# HA-1854). The U.S. Department of Interior NRHP registration form was finalized in November 1993 (Edwards, 1993) and was accepted by the State Historic Preservation Officer via signature on August 2, 1994. The Plumb Point Historic District (HA-1854) registration form is retained in the Maryland Historic Trust's (MHT) archives. As per this registration form, the applicable NR criterion is Criterion C.

The boundary of the Plumb Point Historic District outlines the original residential district within APG, as it was planned and constructed during the period of 1919 to 1942. Most of the buildings included in the district illustrate the two phases of construction in this area; the first in 1919 and the second between 1934 and 1935. The first phase consisted of 14 units of officer housing built on the northern tip of Plumb Point. The second phase included the construction of an additional 74 buildings and structures, and was the result of a program implemented by the Quartermasters Corps, which called for the construction of permanent housing, hospitals, and support facilities using standardized plans. Also included in this second phase was the implementation of a comprehensive physical plan. The Plumb Point district forms a cohesive representative example of Army planning and permanent construction, which occurred between World War I and World War II. The Building 99 water tower was one of the seven non-residential buildings/structures erected during the second phase of construction in May 1934. Suggest reviewing the aforementioned HA-1854 Plumb Point Historic District NRHP registration form for additional details.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. **HA-2192**  
~~HA-1854~~

Directorate of Public Works

var. Building drawings and real property records. On file in Building 4304, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

Edwards, Eliza H.

1993 *Plumb Point Historic District, United States Department of Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. Prepared by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., Frederick, Maryland, for the U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

SciTech Services, Inc.

1998 *Draft Abandoned APG Buildings Post-Wide Historical Record Search Report, Building A99*. Prepared for the U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage of historical setting 0.10

Quadrangle name Spesutie

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Building 99 water tower is located approximately 400' north of the rear of Building 310 and 450' east of East Plumb Point Road.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Teresa Kaltenbacher (Contractor for)		
organization	Analytical Services, Incorporated	date	January 27, 2009
street & number	8600 Snowden River Parkway, Suite 300	telephone	410-312-3535
city or town	Columbia	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

## List of Views

## Digital Photographic Recordation of Building 99 Water Tower (HA-1854)

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

Photographs taken by Terri Kaltenbacher (APG DSHE contractor)

17 April 2009

## Exterior Views

1. <sup>2192</sup>HA-1854\_2009-04-17\_01: Detail of pylons, sway braces, and vertical cylindrical post, view facing north from Officers' Family Housing in Plumb Point Historic District
2. <sup>2192</sup>HA-1854\_2009-04-17\_02: Perspective view facing northwest
3. <sup>2192</sup>HA-1854\_2009-04-17\_03: Perspective view facing north
4. <sup>2192</sup>HA-1854\_2009-04-17\_04: Detail of water tank facing northwest
5. <sup>2192</sup>HA-1854\_2009-04-17\_05: Perspective view of access ladder facing north
6. <sup>2192</sup>HA-1854\_2009-04-17\_06: Detail of tank bottom facing northwest
7. <sup>2192</sup>HA-1854\_2009-04-17\_07: Detail of water tank and access ladder facing north

Interior Views not applicable

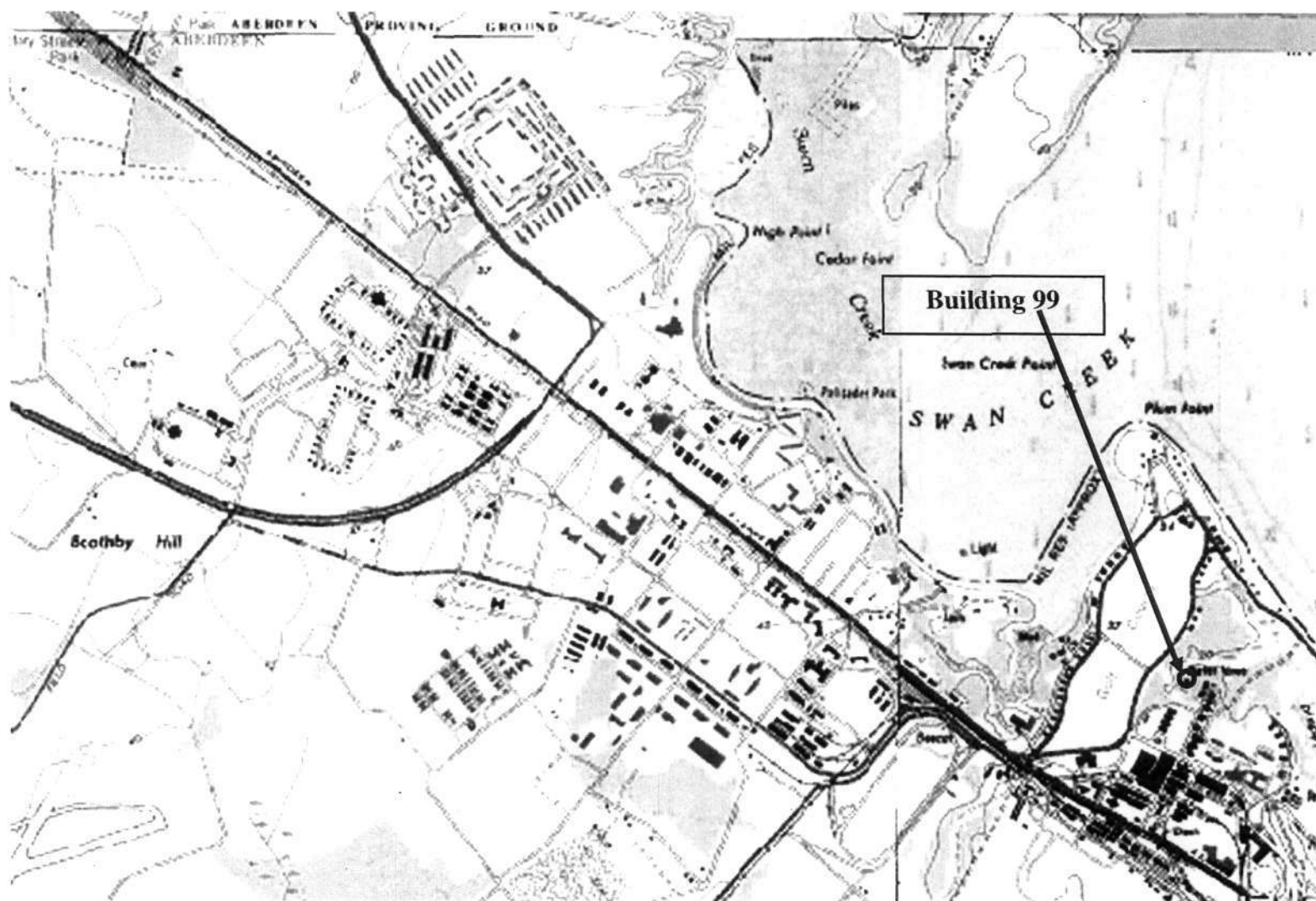
Ink and Paper Combination: HP Premium Plus High Gloss Photo Paper; Epson Ultra Chrome K3 ink

Printer: Epson Stylus Photo R2880

Photo Sleeves: Archival Methods LLC, polypropylene 3.6 mil archival bags with safety seal adhesive strip

Delkin Devices Archival Gold CD-R (300 year disc)





Bldg. 99, Aberdeen Area/Aberdeen Proving Ground  
Aberdeen, Maryland  
Harford County  
Spesutie Quadrangle

HA-2192





Building 99

HA-2192-2009-04-17-02

Harford County, AP6, MD

Terni Kaltenbacher

17 April 2009

View looking NW



Building 99

HA-2192 2009-04-17-03

Harford County, APE, MD

Terri Kaltenbacher

17 April 2009

View looking N



Building 99

HA-2192-2009-04-17-04

Harford County, APG, MD

Terri Kaltenbacher

17 April 2009

View looking NW





Building 99

HA-2192-2009-04-17-05

Harford County, APE, MD

Terri Kaltenbacher

17 April 2009

view looking N



Building 99

HA-2192-2009-04-17-06

Harford County, APG, MD

Terri Kaltenbacher

17 April 2009

View looking NW



Building 99

HA-2192-2009-04-17-01

Harford County, AP6, MD

Terri Kaltenbacher

17 April 2009

View looking N





Building 99

HA-2192-2009-04-17-07

Harford County, APG, MD  
Terri Kaltenbacher

17 April 2009

view looking N